Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 L-03 OMB-01 /061 W

-----142043Z 065782 /73

R 141213Z JUN 77 FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4077 INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY AMCONSUL CALCUTTA AMCONSUL MADRAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ELAB, IN

SUBJECT: ALL-INDIA PORT STRIKE THREAT

REF: A. DELHI 8264 B. MADRAS 0956 (NOTAL)

- 1. A MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF LABOR RELATIONS TOLD US JUNE 14 THAT HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THE THREATENED ALL-INDIA PORT STRIKE (REF A) IS LIKELY TO BEGIN JUNE 16 BECAUSE NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDERWAY. THE OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS ON ALL THE LOCAL ISSUES HAD BEGUN AT ALL MAJOR PORTS AND SETTLEMENTS ON SOME OF THESE ISSUES HAVE BEEN REACHED. ON THE MAJOR NATIONAL ISSUES OF REVISION OF WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS, HOWEVER, THE OFFICIAL IS STILL DISCUSSING WITH THE VARIOUS UNIONS A DATE FOR CONVENING A NATIONAL-LEVEL MEETING TO DISCUSS FURTHER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WAGE REVISION COMMITTEE.
- 2. CONGEN MADRAS ALSO REPORTS THAT THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE MADRAS DOCK LABOR BOARD DOES NOT EXPECT THAT THERE WILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BE ANY MAJOR STRIKES IN SOTH INDIAN PORTS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IN REGARD TO MADRAS PORT, HE EXPECTS THAT AN AGREEMENT WILL BE REACHED WITH THE UNIONS BEFORE THE JUNE 16 DEADLINE SET BY THE ALL-INDIA PORT AND DOCK WORKERS FEDERATION (AIPDWF). ON THE MAIN ISSUE OF THE BONUS, WHICH IS NORMALLY PAID IN THE SOUTH IN JUNE, THE MANAGEMENT HAS OFFERED TO ADVANCE ONE MONTH'S WAGES IN LIEU OF THE BONUS, WITH MODE OF REPAYMENT

TO BE DECIDED WITHIN SIX MONTHS, HE SAID. SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE UNIONS AT COCHIN PORT, AND VISAKHAPATNAM IS LIKELY TO FOLLOW SUIT. THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NATION-WIDE WAGE REVISION COMMITTEE ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE TO SOUTH INDIAN PORT UNIONS, BUT THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN DOES NOT CONSIDER THAT THIS WILL BECOME AN IMMEDIATE ISSUE AS LONG AS THE GOI CHIEF LABOR COMMISSIONER IS TALKING WITH LABOR ON THE SUBJECT. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THE AIPDWF COULD SUCCESSFULLY CALL A NATION-WIDE STRIKE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am

Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: THREATS, PORTS, LABOR STRIKES

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 14-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event:

Disposition Event:
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NEWDE08490
Document Source: CORD

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A

Errors: N/A **Expiration:**

Film Number: D770212-0633

Format: TEL From: NEW DELHI Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770659/aaaabzse.tel

Line Count: 73 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: f6c8417d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION NEA

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 28-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2158683 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: ALL-INDIA PORT STRIKE THREAT

TAGS: ELAB, IN To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f6c8417d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009